

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/894,182

Applicant(s)

CHATANI, MASAYUKI

Examiner

Liang-che Alex Wang

Art Unit

2155

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 11/06/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 4, 8-11, 13-18, 20-26, 28-30 (renumbered as 1-22).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

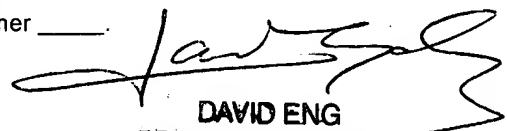
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/18/2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


DAVID ENG
PRIMARY EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Claims 1, 4, 8-11, 13-18, 20-26, 28-30 are allowed.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kenneth M. Kaslow (Reg. No. 32,246) on 1/10/2007.
4. The claims has been amended as follow:
 1. (currently amended) A system for assigning reward points, comprising:
 - a user console coupled to a network, wherein the user console is configured to transmit a set identification over the network, the set identification uniquely identifying a user of the console;
 - a disc storage medium including a permanently recorded disc identification unique to and identifying the disc storage medium, the disc storage medium being readable by the user console, wherein the user console is further configured to transmit the disc identification over the network; and
 - a host server coupled to the network, wherein the host server is configured to:
 - receive the disc identification;
 - receive the set identification;
 - authorize the user of the user console as identified by the set identification to execute software residing on the disc storage medium;
 - and
 - assign points to a point account associated with the

disc identification, wherein the points assigned to the point account are a reward for the disc storage medium having been shared with other users.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) The system of claim [[3]] 1, further comprising a user database accessible by the host server, the user database including a user table, the user table comprising:
user identification information; and
a point account, wherein the point account is associated with the user identification.

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) The system of claim [[6]] 4, wherein the host server is further configured to:

compare the received disc identification with disc identification information stored in the user table and associated with the user identification information;
and
compare the received disc identification with disc identification information stored in other user tables and associated with other user identifications.

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9. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein ~~if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the user table and associated with the user identification,~~ the host server is further configured to:

~~transmits to the user console an access permission signal that authorizes~~

~~execution of software stored on the disc storage medium;~~

assign ~~assigns~~ points to the point account in the user table and associated with the ~~disc identification and the user identification;~~ and

transmit ~~transmits~~ point information including total reward point information to the user console, if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the user table and associated with the user identification.

10. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein ~~if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the other user tables and associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table indicates owner consent,~~ the host server is further configured to:

~~transmits to the user console an access permission signal that authorizes~~

~~execution of software stored on the disc storage medium;~~

assign ~~assigns~~ points to a point account in the other user table and associated with the ~~disc identification and the other user identification;~~ and

transmit ~~transmits~~ point information including total reward point information to the user console, if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the other user tables and associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table indicates owner consent.

11. (previously presented) The system of claim 10, wherein the host server further assigns points to the point account in the user table associated with the user identification.

12. (cancelled)

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13. (currently amended) The system of claim 8, wherein ~~if the received disc identification does not match any of the disc identification information stored in any user table~~, the host server is further configured to:

~~transmits to the user console an access permission signal to execute software~~
~~residing on the disc storage medium;~~

assign ~~assigns~~ points to the point account in the user table associated with the set
identification that uniquely identifies the user of the user console; and

transmit ~~transmits~~ point information including total reward point information to
the user console, if the received disc identification does not match any of the disc
identification information stored in any user table.

14. (previously presented) The system of claim 13, wherein the host server records the received disc identification to the user table associated with the set identification that uniquely identifies the user or the user console.

15. (previously presented) The system of claim 8, further comprising a disc database accessible by the host server, the disc database including a disc table, the disc table comprising:

owner consent data, the owner consent data including access
permission data for other users; and

a sub-account associated with the disc identification, the sub-account including
point data associated with the disc identification.

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16. (currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein ~~if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the user table associated with the user identification,~~ the host server is further configured to:

~~transmits to the user console an access permission signal that authorizes~~

~~execution of software stored on the disc storage medium;~~

assign ~~assigns~~ points to the sub-account in the disc table and associated with the disc identification; and

transmit ~~transmits~~ point information including total reward point information to the user console, if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the user table associated with the user identification.

17. (currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein ~~if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the other user tables associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table indicates owner consent,~~ the host server is further configured to:

~~transmits to the user console an access permission signal that authorizes~~

~~execution of software stored on the disc storage medium;~~

assign ~~assigns~~ points to the sub-account in the disc table and associated with the disc identification; and

transmit ~~transmits~~ point information including total reward point information to the user console, if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the other user tables associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table indicates owner consent.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, wherein the host server further assigns points to the point account in the user table associated with the user identification.

19. (cancelled)

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20. (currently amended) The system of claim 15, wherein ~~if the received disc identification does not match any disc identification information stored in any user table~~, the host server is further configured to [[:]]

~~transmits to the user console an access permission signal to execute software residing on the disc storage medium; and~~

transmit ~~transmits~~ point information including total reward point information to the user console, if the received disc identification does not match any disc identification information stored in any user table.

21. (previously presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the host server records the received disc identification to the disc table.

22. (previously presented) The system of claim 21, wherein the host server assigns points to the sub-account in the disc table and associated with the received disc identification.

23. (original) The system of claim 8, further comprising a plurality of publisher servers accessible by the host server, the publisher servers being configured to manage a plurality of publisher databases, wherein each of the publisher databases includes sub-accounts managed by one of the publisher servers.

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24. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein ~~if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the user table and associated with the user identification,~~ the host server is further configured to [[:]]

~~transmits to the user console an access permission signal that authorizes~~

~~execution of software stored on the disc storage medium; and~~

transmit ~~transmits~~ point information including total reward point information to the user console, if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the user table and associated with the user identification, and

the publisher server of the publisher database associated with the received disc identification assigns points to the sub-account of the publisher database associated with the received disc identification.

25. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein ~~if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the other user tables and associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table indicates owner consent,~~ the host server is further configured to [[:]]

~~transmits to the user console an access permission signal that authorizes~~

~~execution of software stored on the disc storage medium; and~~

transmit ~~transmits~~ point information to the user console indicating that points have been rewarded, if the received disc identification matches any of the disc identification information stored in the other user tables and associated with other user identifications, and if the matched other user table indicates owner consent, and

the publisher server of the publisher database associated with the received disc identification assigns points to the sub-account of the publisher database associated with the received disc identification.

26. (previously presented) The system of claim 25, wherein the host server assigns points to a point account in the user table and associated with the user identification.

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27. (cancelled)

28. (currently amended) The system of claim 23, wherein ~~if the received disc identification does not match any of the disc identification information stored in any user table~~, the host server is further configured to [[:]]

~~transmits to the user console an access permission signal to execute software~~

~~residing on the disc storage medium; and~~

transmit ~~transmits~~ point information including total reward point information to

the user console, if the received disc identification does not match any of the disc identification information stored in any user table.

29. (previously presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the publisher server of the publisher database associated with the disc storage medium identified by the received disc identification records the received disc identification to the publisher database associated with the disc storage medium identified by the received disc identification.

30. (previously presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the publisher server of the publisher database associated with the received disc identification assigns points to the sub-account of the publisher database associated with the received disc identification.

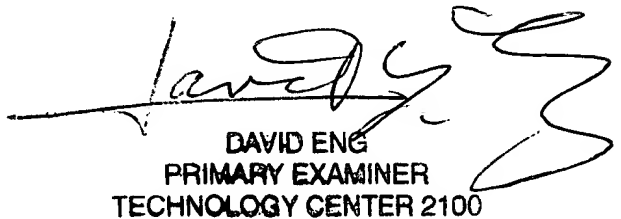
Reason for allowance

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record does not teach or suggest, individually or in combination, receiving the disc identification and the set identification where the set identification uniquely identifies a user of the console, authorizing the user of the user console as identified by the set identification to execute software residing on the disc storage medium; and assign points to a point account associated with the disc identification in light of other features described in independent claim 1.

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6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liang-che Alex Wang whose telephone number is (571)272-3992. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.
8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached on (571)272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.
9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free)..

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January 10, 2007


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